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NEW CORN BORER BILL INTRODUCED

A bill to provide for the large scale control of the European corn borer and to retard its further spread into the Corn Belt was introduced in Congress on February 1, by Congressman F. S. Purnell of Indiana, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. This bill is identical with the one enacted last year providing for a \$10,000,000 appropriation:

"*****to enable the Secretary of Agriculture to apply such methods of eradication or control of the European corn borer as in his judgment may be necessary ***** and to be expended in cooperation with such authorities of the States concerned, organizations or individuals as the Secretary may deem necessary to accomplish such purposes."

Hearings on the bill will probably be held the latter part of February.

The Secretary of Agriculture in a statement issued as recently as January 13, discussed as follows the question of repeating this year the large scale compulsory clean up of 1927:

"The reasons why such control was omitted from the department's program as submitted to Congress are as follows:

"(1) The department was frankly skeptical whether such a control effort would sufficiently retard or delay spread as to be worth its cost. The department recognized, however, that such control measures if adequately carried out would retard spread, at least as to volume, and perhaps for a few years the general advance of the corn borer across the main Corn Belt.

"(2) The unwillingness and, perhaps, inability of some of the States to enforce the control in the lightly infested areas in connection with the campaign of last spring, so that in those States the experimental control campaign of last year did not include a thorough clean up of the lightly infested border counties, as was intended in providing the emergency appropriation of 1927 with the result that normal spread actually occurred in 1927 in these areas.

"On the other hand, as noted under paragraph (1) above, the department appreciates the fact that the spread of the corn borer may possibly be retarded to some degree by the thorough clean-up of the border areas of the infested territory, namely, the areas from which spread takes place, but the department points out that to accomplish this purpose the States and the farmers must cooperate in enforcing such clean-up to include the lightly infested border areas, to give the effort any value in controlling or delaying spread."

THE 1927 APPROPRIATION

To January 31, 1928, \$9,055,047.50 of the special \$10,000,000 appropriation of 1927 had been encumbered, leaving a balance unencumbered on that date of \$966,952.70. A total payment to that date of \$4,246,539.87 had been made to farmers in the clean-up area for their extra labor in cleaning up their premises. This payment was represented by 185,979 Farmers' Reimbursement Vouchers.

Detailed information concerning actual expenditures for other items to October 31, 1927 has been compiled and is as follows:

\$2,532,521.85	Spent for machinery, office furniture, furnishings and fixtures.
260,644.92	Salaries.
1,057,584.15	Wages of laborers.
540,722.98	For supplies and materials.
120,132.15	For travel and transportation expenses.
15,872.22	Communication, printing and photographic expenses.
2,742.08	Storage of motor vehicles.
66,544.72	Rents, light, heat, repairs, etc.
74.50	Miscellaneous.

"INFORMATION, PLEASE!"



What steps progressive farmers are taking to control the corn borer and practical methods of clean-up on the farm will be the theme of the editors working in the corn borer information service this spring. Editors in the States are planning to use more freely the stories of local farmers who have been unusually successful in their clean-up or are solving clean-up problems satisfactorily.

The first releases in the new series of cuts put out by the Federal information service went to newspapers in Ohio and New York on January 14, and to Michigan, February 10; and will go to Indiana newspapers February 15 and to Pennsylvania newspapers March 1. These cuts will be followed by others at intervals of twice a month, through May 1, if the newspaper receiving the first releases indicates its desire to receive this service. The pictures from which the cuts were made were selected and captions thereunder written by the extension editors in the States to which the cuts are forwarded.

Additional photographs to illustrate how farmers are controlling the borer will be taken during the coming season.



STATE EDITORS' PLAN



OHIO plans to continue the information service along the same lines, using the weekly news-letter to weeklies and dailies. "The purpose of these stories is not to create corn-borer hysteria but to disseminate facts pertaining to the work and spread of the corn borer and to the methods and practices of farmers and the work of the Federal control forces in checking the advance of the insect," says J. E. McClintock, editor of the Ohio Agricultural Extension Service. Special stories will also be used as occasion arises.

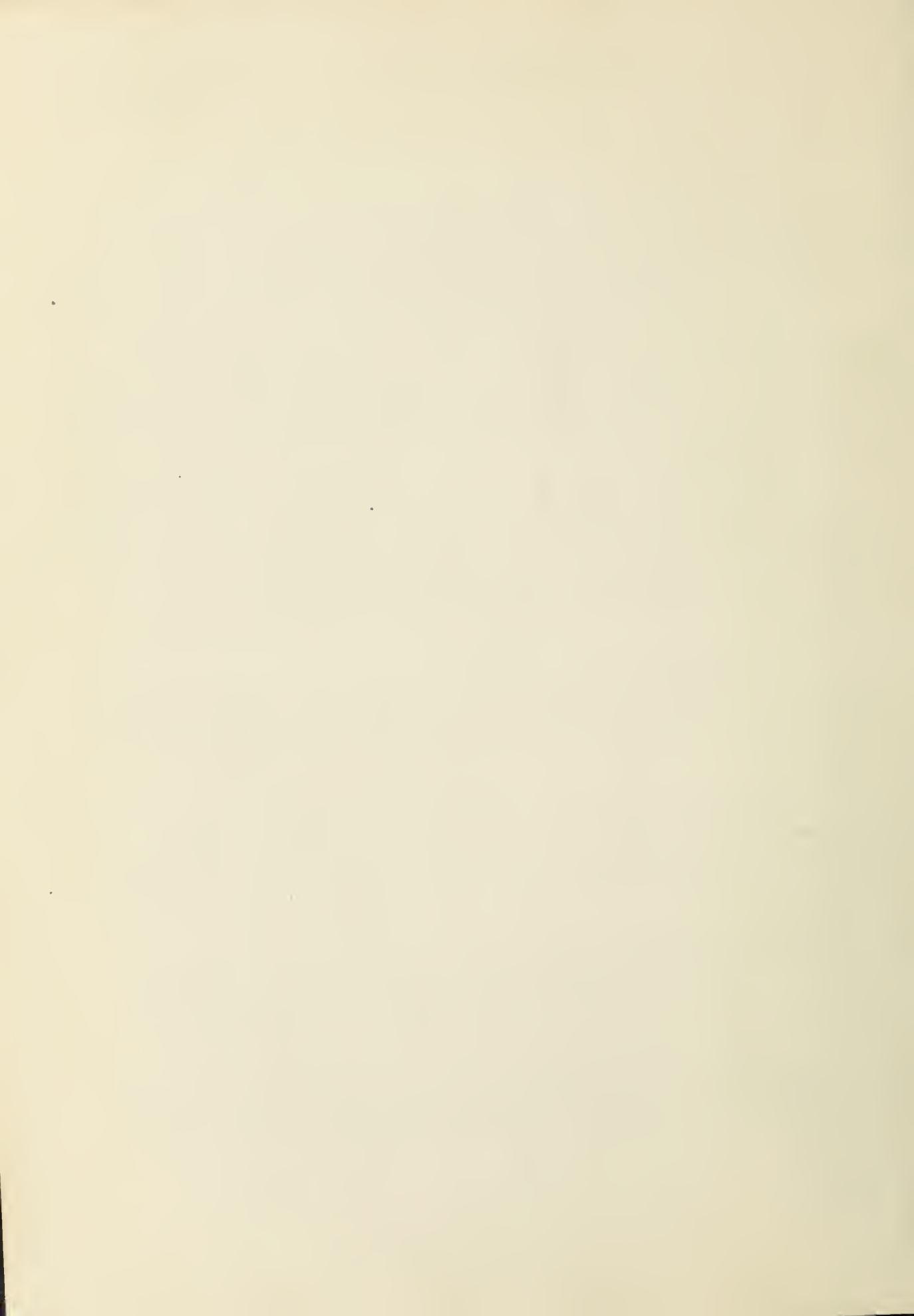
MICHIGAN proposes the continuation of the corn-borer information service following in a general way the plan which has been used. "News stories concerning the life history of the pest, its habits, approved control practices, and pertinent information concerning new discoveries and other developments will be furnished to newspapers as in the past. We are already making use of our farm journals for longer articles and will continue to do so," writes J. B. Hasselman, editor, Michigan State College.

NEW YORK will continue to place emphasis on the tried and effective practices of low cutting, of putting corn into the silo, of complete clean-up by proved methods before May 1, and of planting corn late. "The value of these practices will be reiterated through all the forms of news service available," states Bristow Adams, editor, New York State College of Agriculture.

INDIANA "Our general plan for the campaign this spring is practically the same as that of last year, with local news and feature stories in papers throughout the area," states T. R. Johnston, in charge of information work at Purdue University. This will be supplemented by a wide distribution of bulletins, cuts, posters, lantern slides, and other information material.

PENNSYLVANIA A conference on information work was held in Pennsylvania February 4 in Federal corn-borer headquarters in Erie, attended by representatives from the State department of agriculture, State extension service, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Timely news stories, circulars giving information on control methods to farmers, cuts to newspapers, and lanternslides are being used by Pennsylvania county agents in bringing control requirements to the attention of the farmers, reports E. H. Rohrbeck, extension editor, Pennsylvania State College.





In one week, 2,500 Hoosier farmers and others interested stepped up and took a look at the corn-borer exhibit truck, now touring the State, carrying the lesson of the corn borer - the damage it can do and best methods of control - to the very door of the farmer. The Indiana truck is operating on a full schedule and dated up till well along in March. Similar trucks equipped at Toledo headquarters are now touring other infested States under the guidance of the extension service.

DISCUSS CONTROL REGULATIONS IN NEW YORK

Farmers in the worst-infested counties in western New York have been holding meetings this last week to discuss ways and means of controlling the corn borer and to decide what regulatory measures are advisable. C. P. Norgord, assistant commissioner of farms and markets, was in charge of the meetings, which were called by the State department of agriculture.

Farmers, farm bureau representatives, grange representatives, members of county boards of supervisors, and corn-borer specialists from the college of agriculture and the Federal Department of Agriculture were present to take part in the discussions. The meetings were held in Cattaraugus County, February 8; Niagara, February 9; Chautauqua, February 10; and Erie, February 11.

SANDUSKY COUNTY USES STUBBLE BEATERS

Sandusky County, Ohio, has been making good use of government stubble beaters during the fall and winter. Many of the same farmers who expressed their protest to the clean-up regulations last year by filing injunctions are now cleaning up their corn stubble for the control of the corn borer with government stubble beaters.

CALL REVIEWS THE CAMPAIGN

An article entitled, "Did the \$10,000,000 Campaign Check the Borer?," by L. E. Call, dean of Kansas State College of Agriculture, appearing in the February issue of Farm and Fireside, reviews corn-borer control efforts in 1927.

STATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN

Practically all of the State research programs are now in and the work of assembling is under way for the complete research program for 1928, which will soon be available in mimeographed form. Complete programs including research plans along the lines of entomology, engineering, and agronomy have been received from Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana since the last issue. Other states whose reports are in are Ohio, New Hampshire, New York and Pennsylvania.

CORNSTALKS MAY PROVE VALUABLE

Farmers cleaning up their cornstalks to control the corn borer may be able to turn them into a neat little income, according to researches being made at Iowa State College. About 300 useful products have already been made of cornstalks and corncobs at this laboratory, says O. R. Sweeney, in charge of the work, and in a decade or two they will be utilized on a large scale, he predicts.

Articles which have been made successfully from the corn plant are several grades of paper, papier-mache, wall board, and other substitutes for building lumber, substitutes for hardwoods used in furniture and finish, rayon, acetic acid, plastic materials, electrical and heat insulation, and furfural.

"QUARANTINE" and "CLEAN-UP"

There is some confusion between the terms "quarantine" and "clean-up areas." This is the way it stands:

The quarantine line is fixed within the State by the State Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and is based on the findings of the corn-borer scouts employed by the Federal Bureau of Entomology. ALL territory found infested is included in the quarantine.

The clean-up area on the other hand may include all or part of the infested area, and is determined by the judgment of those concerned as to which areas, if cleaned up, will most effectively cut down the spread or reduce the intensity of infestation, and also by the funds available.

TAKE ALONG A BULLETIN



A new bulletin, "Farm practices under corn-borer conditions," by Jesse W. Tapp, agricultural economist, and George W. Collier, assistant agricultural economist, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and C. R. Arnold, farm-management demonstrator, Ohio State University, has just been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1562.

The bulletin is based upon information obtained from 750 farmers in the infested areas of Ohio and Michigan concerning the labor and power required by different methods of control, their adaptability to particular conditions, and the influence of the borer upon the place of corn in systems of farming.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IN ILLINOIS



In the bulletin, "Learning to Live with the European Corn Borer," issued by the University of Illinois College of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station, the following program for preventing serious corn-borer losses in Illinois is given:

1. Keep soil in a high state of fertility in order to produce good yields and to hasten the maturity of late-planted corn.
2. Select and grow earlier maturing varieties of corn, with heavier stalks, that can be planted late.
3. Adopt a good rotation of crops,****. Such rotations allow the growing of the maximum acreages of crops which the borer does not injure. They are helpful also in improving the productiveness of the soil, and they enable the farmer to handle crop and weed refuse to the best advantage and at a low cost.
4. Utilize as much of the corn crop as possible through the silo or as finely shredded material.
5. Turn under or burn completely by May 15 all corn refuse and weeds in cornfields.
6. Increase the acreage of legumes. They are injured less by the borer than are other crops and they are valuable in all crop rotations.
7. Practice CLEAN plowing. Ninety-five per cent or more of the corn borers will be destroyed if all crop and weed refuse is entirely covered.
8. Become familiar with quarantine and clean-up regulations, and help in every way possible to carry them out.
9. Watch fields for the presence of this insect and send suspected specimens to the Natural History Survey, Urbana, for identification.

THE CORN-BORER STORY
as told by
CANADIAN FARMERS

Here are summaries of two more stories obtained by B. R. Proulx of Michigan, assistant in corn-borer information, on his recent Canadian trip:-

HE SUBSTITUTES John Johnson, a farmer living in Kent County, Ontario, has OTHER CROPS a 150-acre farm. The corn borer has caused a change in his cropping system. He now grows beans, cabbage, and more wheat in the place of his decreased corn acreage.

Johnson estimates conservatively that the corn borer has decreased his income \$500 per year. Flint corn for seed has been his main source of income. He formerly got from 500 to 1,000 bushels of seed corn, depending upon the season, but had only 200 bushels from his 1926 crop to sell. Corn-borer damage, and a decreased corn acreage because of the borer, have been responsible for the smaller yield.

Johnson feeds steers and has always kept three brood sows and a few dairy cattle. He used to grow about 30 acres of corn each year. In 1926 he cut this amount to 19 acres and in 1927 to 10 acres. He does not believe he will grow any corn in 1928.

He practices control measures by breaking off the stubble with a T-rail after freezing weather comes, and plowing it under in the spring. He believes that a smaller corn acreage for a few years and a permanent clean-up will hold the pest in check.

BORER HURTS Frank Weaver, Turnerville, Kent County, Ontario, bought HOG BUSINESS his 100-acre farm 17 years ago, and the sale of hogs paid for it. He had never sold less than \$1,000 worth of hogs per year. Then the borer came along, and things changed.

Until the borer came, he had always fed about 100 hogs, besides about 16 head of beef cattle. But borer damage to his corn crop compelled him to reduce the number of hogs to 26, and he believes that he will also have to decrease the beef cattle. He has not enough corn to feed them. His usual corn acreage ran from 30 to 35. In 1926, the acreage was reduced to 6, and in 1927, to $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Twelve acres of sugar beets, and more alfalfa, oats, and barley have been substituted in the place of corn. He estimates that the reduction in corn acreage has cut his income in half.

Weaver's clean-up method is to cut the stalks with a mower, gather them with a side-delivery rake, and burn them. He then crushes the stubble with a T-rail, and plows it under in the spring.

